

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. FUNDING. TELEPHONE SURCHARGE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

ARGUMENT in Favor of Proposition 67

Firefighters, paramedics, doctors, and nurses agree that passage of Prop. 67 is essential to maintain emergency medical care in California.

Every day thousands of Californians are victims of heart attacks, strokes, car accidents, and other medical emergencies. For many, rapid response emergency treatment by a paramedic, doctor, or nurse is the difference between life and death.

YES on Prop. 67 will make sure that rapid response emergency medical care is available when you and your family need it most.

The Problem:

We are facing a crisis in emergency care. According to government reports, there are 64 fewer hospital emergency rooms and trauma centers available for patients in California than there were just a decade ago. Experts predict that many more emergency rooms and trauma centers will close. Children, families, and seniors will lose access to doctors, nurses, critical medical equipment, medicines, and essential emergency care.

If an emergency room closes near your home, place of work, or along the routes you drive, the time it takes for an ambulance to get you to a doctor could double, triple, or worse. In an emergency, every second is critical.

Emergency rooms throughout California are severely overcrowded. Patients face long lines and wait times. Firefighters, paramedics, doctors, and nurses are overwhelmed and lack the resources to provide quality lifesaving care that every patient deserves.

The Solution:

A YES vote on Prop. 67 will provide needed funds to help:

- Keep hospital emergency rooms, trauma centers, and health clinics open and operational
- Prevent long lines and wait times at local emergency rooms
- Attract and retain highly skilled physicians, nurses, and medical staff at our local emergency rooms and trauma centers

- Provide critical emergency medical equipment and technology
- Support local health clinics that treat non-emergency patients and preserve our emergency rooms for real emergencies
- Equip and train firefighters and paramedics who are often the first to respond and provide medical care in emergencies
- Upgrade our 911 emergency telephone system

Safeguards to ensure funds are properly spent:

Prop. 67 funds emergency medical care with a modest increase to the existing surcharge on telephone use for the 911 system. Prop. 67 caps the amount a phone company can bill residential telephone customers for the new surcharge at 50 cents per month. The new surcharge does not apply to out-of-state long distance calls, and senior citizens and others on basic lifeline phone rates are completely exempt from the additional cost.

For just pennies each month we can preserve emergency care for California's children, families, and seniors. None of the money from Prop. 67 can be taken away by the Legislature to be used for other purposes.

You never know when you will need a paramedic, emergency room doctor, or nurse. YES on Prop. 67 will make sure that emergency medical care is available when you and your family need it most.

SAVE EMERGENCY CARE. SAVE LIVES.

Please join firefighters, paramedics, doctors, nurses, and patients in voting YES on Prop. 67.

For more information, visit www.saveemergencycare.org

DARLENE BRADLEY, RN, President

California Emergency Nurses Association

MICHAEL J. SEXTON, M.D., President-elect

California Medical Association

CARMELA CASTELLANO, Chief Executive Officer

California Primary Care Association

REBUTTAL to Argument in Favor of Proposition 67

Respected health care advocates, the Congress of California Seniors, the California Sheriffs' Association, and the emergency care workers who run the 911 system all **OPPOSE PROP. 67** because *90% of the funds go to large health care corporations and other special interests—* which means:

- *No new emergency rooms or trauma centers.*
- *No money to upgrade existing emergency rooms.*
- *No provisions to reduce emergency response times. LESS THAN 1% OF THE MONEY GOES TO THE 911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM.*

Prop. 67 is a \$540 MILLION PHONE TAX—another MISLEADING attempt to give taxpayer money to special interests. **READ THE FINE PRINT**—and see how misleading it is:

- Supporters claim it's "a modest increase" in phone taxes—but it actually **INCREASES YOUR PHONE TAXES BY 400%**.
- Supporters claim that seniors are exempt, but more than 1 MILLION SENIOR CITIZENS will be affected.

- Supporters claim the tax rates are capped, but there are **NO CAPS ON CELL PHONE OR SMALL BUSINESS PHONE TAXES.**

Prop. 67 **DOES NOT PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE** to any of the millions of Californians who do not have any. It gives millions to health corporations, but **DOES NOTHING TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS OR HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS.**

And because there are **NO MANDATORY AUDITS OR FINANCIAL CONTROLS**, there's *potential for waste and fraud.*

Prop. 67 won't solve California's health care problems, but it will **RAISE YOUR PHONE TAXES BY 400%**.

Say **NO** to the PHONE TAX. Vote **NO** on 67.

ANGELA MORA, Founder

Office of the Patient Advocate

ROBERT T. DOYLE, President

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DR. CHARLES J. SUPPLE, M.D.